REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 stand in the present application, claim 1 having been amended. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 1 for not having a correct status indicator. Claim 1 has been amended again in this Amendment, and Applicants have paid careful attention to providing the proper status indicator for the amended claim.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hill. In view of the above-described claim amendments, the Examiner's § 102 rejection of the claims are believed to have been overcome as will be described in greater detail below.

Present claim 1 requires the generation of an allocation plan in which the request data relating to each of the input/output pairs are sorted in terms of their queue length. In Hill, the queues are dealt with in two groups. The shortest queues are allocated in their entirety (see page 4, element "b"), and the longer ones are reduced to length (element "e") before themselves being allocated (element "f"). Thus, the data queues in Hill are sorted by length, albeit only into two categories.

However, another key distinction between Applicants' invention and the cited reference is that the queues in Applicants' invention are sorted into descending order of length. This is clearly shown in the present specification at pages 9 (lines 12-15), 10 and 11 and, especially, in the table in the lower half of page 10. In Hill, the described embodiment performs step "e" first (see page 9, lines 18-30) so the queues are all made

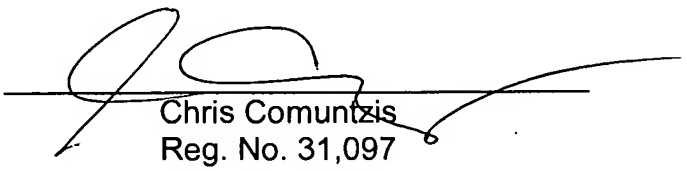
the same length before any allocation takes place, steps "d" and "f" then being run together.

This differs from Applicants' invention which effectively reduces the lower-long queues only after the allocation process has taken place, by simply not allocating the access. Moreover, as noted above, the present specification describes allocation of queues in descending order of length (see page 9, lines 12-15) and Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to more clearly require this feature of Applicants' invention. Since the cited reference does not teach or suggest this limitation, amended claim 1 and its respective dependent claims 2-8 patentably define thereover.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1-8, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Chris Comuntzis
Reg. No. 31,097

CC:lmr
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100